

REMARKS

A. Status of the Claims

Claims 1, 2, 12, 14, 25 and 26 were examined and remain pending. No amendments have been made.

B. Claims 1, 2, 25 and 26 Are Patentable Over Goicoechea

There are no **crossed** strands in Goicoechea. Instead, Figures 4A and 4B of Goicoechea disclose only non-crossed, adjacent apices 22 of a part of a stent. Thus, Goicoechea does not meet all the limitations of any of the rejected claims, and the anticipation rejection should be withdrawn.

C. Claims 12 and 14 Are Patentable Over the Asserted Combination

Contrary to the Office's assertion, Goicoechea fails to disclose any crossed strands. Claims 12 and 14 distinguish Goicoechea on this basis, and the Ashley Book of Knots does not cure Goicoechea's deficiency. The obviousness rejection is overcome and should be withdrawn.

D. Petition for Extension of Time in This and Future Responses

Applicants petition for a 3-month extension of time in which to respond to the March 22, 2006 Office Action. The Commissioner is authorized to deduct the 3-month extension process fee, and any additional fees under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 to 1.21 be required for any reason relating to the enclosed materials, from Fulbright & Jaworski Deposit Account No.: 50-1212/IDEV:020US.

The Office is further authorized to treat any concurrent or future reply that requires a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a) to be timely as incorporating a petition for an extension of time for the appropriate length of time, and to deduct all required fees under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 to 1.21 relating to any such replies of other relevant papers from Fulbright & Jaworski Deposit Account No.: 50-1212/IDEV:020US.

E. Conclusion

Claims 1, 2, 12, 14, 25 and 26 are in condition for allowance. Should Examiner Erez have any questions, comments, or suggestions relating to this application, he is invited to contact Applicant's attorney at (512) 536-3031.

Respectfully submitted,

/Mark T. Garrett/

Mark T. Garrett
Reg. No. 44,699
Attorney for Applicant

FULBRIGHT & JAWORSKI L.L.P.
600 Congress Avenue, Suite 2400
Austin, Texas 78701
(512) 536-3031
Date: September 22, 2006